12/15/71

Mr. Jesse Core
1820 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Jesse,

From the length of time it has taken me to write and thank you for it, you may find it hard to believe that our lunch was one of the most pleasant I can remember, but it is the fact. I regreted much having to leave for other appointments (for which I was late).I enjoyed Charlie Gresham very much,too. Not less but more because he seemed so much like a man superbly cast to play a role whereas he is that man and is not playing a part.

It has taken me until now to work my way down through a tall stack that accumulated during my absence and to recharge the aging batteries. I've almost caught up on the mail and making notes, and I've stretched the night to six hours, on the average. Getting together with you is the one thing I had hoped to do on this trip for fun, not for work, because I had enjoyed our earlier meetings so and because I had found that your knowledge of people just helped me understand them better. With all the others, however, it was work, and for that to have meaning as part of my work I had to record what each told me. At the pace I went, this was not possible then, and I've had to get it all on paper before I forget.

As we got to talking, some things came to mind that I couldn't talk about after Charlie and Mrs. Pitts joined us. I'll return to them.

One of the things you said did interest me. It addresses one of the mysteries. So, I'll tell you what I learned about them from others. You said you had viewed the WDSU footage after the assassination and are pretty certain you saw yourself in it. When I asked Ed Planer about this his immediate reply was "absolutely". So, your recollection is correct. You gave me a general description of the second man helping Oswald that exactly coincides with those given me by two others. Yet neither you nor this second man is in that footage any longer. I have a number of FBI reports that describe showing stills from that footage to others in search of this missing man. In all cases, these reports were filed by agents not assigned to the case, men who were called upon to fill in. Johann Rush made a total of 17 prints from that footage, of which but two have any official existence today. I doubt the one from the WWL footage would exist if a Commission lawyer had not used it as an exhibit. And all still-existing versions of the WDSU footage are identical. Ed Planer permitted me to have a dub made in 1968. It is identical with the FBI copy that became part of the Commission's files, and they are identical with the Secret Service copy that I was, ultimately, able to have produced. This Secret Service copy still has a wrapper saying it shows what it does not, this second man with Oswald.

Orwell said it all, alas! Those frames are in the memory hole now.

Something else I learned is that a man of similar description was seen with Oswald before he picketed the ITM, when he was handing out leaflets on Canal Street. I suspect there is a very good reason why he fled when you berated them. Who he is remains a mystery. I suspect that you are in the same frames in which he appeared. The Commission makes no reference to him, although the fact that he was there is beyond doubt from its own files.

The two things that came to mind while we were talking that I didn't mention are these: William George Gaudet and his Latin American Reports had offices in the ITM for years. Yet the size of the publication would seem to indicate they could not really afford that space (even less after the move to the new building) or the offices in other cities. In other cities, the same address was the address of the Free Cuba Committee, which was CIA funded, about $500,000 a year. I found myself wondering whether the presence of Latin American Reports in the ITM was the real reason Oswald picked that building out to picket. As I recall Shaw's explanation, it doesn't make sense. He said the consulate was there. There had been no consulate there for years, from the time Eisenhower broke relations. And Josephine Hug testified before the grand jury, according to the trial transcripts, that Shaw gave space to an anti-Castro Cuban group. The name is not in her public testimony and it is not in the city directory for those years. I'm quite curious about it. If you recall the name or anything about it, it would interest me greatly. I would dearly love to get to the real reason Oswald picked out the ITM to picket the one time he did arrange for TV coverage. It is little known, and it is absent from official records, but his leafletting in that general area was much more extensive than is known. But the one time he sought and got real attention was at the ITM. And then he used other than the listed phone numbers to arrange it. He had a non-WDSU number for Vern Rottman, yetthe FBI interview with Rotman makes no mention of that.

After I left New Orleans I went to two other cities. In Dallas I was able to learn more about that strange man Jack Ruby. Two things may interest you. I am now without any doubt that he premeditated the crime (I always felt that way). He did confess it, ultimately, with details. And was he sick! Aside from homosexuality and attempting the rape of women from as far away as California, he fondled immature girls in public, masturbated dogs and practised cunilungulus-- both in public, too.

Gaudet, by the way, somehow knew that years earlier Ruby had bought a painting from Larry Borenstein. A cheap one, naturally - $25.00. He told this to the FBI, which is not at all wrong, for they should have been told everything. But it sure helped get the investigation of Ruby off in the wrong direction. If anyone in New Orleans devotes himself more intensively to capitalist pursuits than Larry, I have not met him. The accident of his birth is unrelated to his selling a cheap painting to Ruby.

Again, my thanks for a very pleasant afternoon. Each time I light a fire I am reminded of it by the general supply of Commander's Palace wooden matches on the mantel. Hope you have a good holiday and a good year - and that I am again in New Orleans so we can have another such meeting.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg